**MINUTES**

**April 3, 2017**

Attending the meeting were Mayor Spencer R. Schlosnagle, council members Julia Sines, Pam Humberson, Sheryl MacLane, Fred Fox, Jerry Fike, Robert Sines and Clerk/Treasurer Karen Benedict. In the audience were Pastor Phil Smith from the Freedom Chapel Church, Chris Stewart who runs the Water Street Café, Sheriff Rob Corley and Crede Calhoun.

Council President Julia Sines called the April 3, 2017 general meeting of the Mayor and Town Council to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance:** Pastor Phil Smith of the Freedom Chapel Church gave the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance.

**Approval of the Agenda and Minutes:** Jerry moved to accept the agenda. Bob seconds the motion. All in favor. Sheryl moved to approve the March 20, 2017 Mayor and Town Council meeting. Jerry seconds the motion. All in favor. Jerry moved to approved the March 27, 2017 Work Session minutes. Fred seconds the motion. All in favor.

**TO THE FLOOR**

Phil Smith presented the proposals for fixing the basketball backboards. There is no guarantee with either company. Glass Unlimited, LLC is charging for two whole sheets of polycarbonate at a cost of $1,318. They will need to be cut down to size. Mt. Top Glass Home and Auto will cut them to size, grind the edges and put the holes in them for $1,406. Phil stated that polycarbonate is virtually vandalism free where acrylic is what we have at the present time and can be damaged by vandalism. He recommended to council to purchase the polycarbonate sheets and with his help the town could replace the backboards at a cost of $1,000 to $1,120. He also suggested fixing the broken one first. This will be discussed later in the meeting.

Chris Stewart came before council to see what is happening in town and to thank the council for their service. He stated the ditch behind the Methodist Church needs cleaned out. There is a smell or stench coming from it. Also, the drain on Water Street where the water runoff from the state highway needs attention. The county is waiting on the fire department to blow out the inlet and state is waiting on the county roads to clean the culvert before they can do anything. Chris also questioned if the town had any plans to plant some trees in the new parking lot. He was informed the veterans memorial committee will be planting some trees around the memorial. Jerry is concerned with parking across from Chris’s Water Street Cafe. Could it be changed to parallel parking? Discussion.

Crede Calhoun spoke on the progress of the interactive walking tour he is working on.

The deadline is June 30th. Crede spoke on the proposal for a new wildlife viewing area and the need to apply for a Heritage grant to fund this project. There is a 50/50 match to this grant.

Spence will check with Peggy Jamison, our circuit rider, about writing the grant.

Sheriff Rob Corley reported we had 24 calls for service. He was questioned about the thefts in the community. He stated if they are not reported he cannot do anything about them. He also spoke on the drug problem in the county. There was a discussion with Sheriff Corley on wrong way parking on Maple Street and Morris Avenue making it difficult for business owners. He stated the town can have the vehicles towed away. There are sometimes grants to be acquired that pay for extra town patrols we may want to look into. An example is the “Be the Wall” grant we received through the health department in previous years.

**COMMITTEES**

**Buildings:** Bob reportedthe museum building on Maple Street needs painted. Spencer spoke on the rental fee of $50 per month being paid by the Friend Family for the museum and the needed repairs to the building. He stated it does not look good for the HUR increases in the new fiscal year budget. We need to be very careful with what we spend, however this does need done. Spencer will see if Heritage has any grants for building repair for older buildings.

**Streets and Walks:** After discussion Julia moved to approve the Garrett County Roads Department proposal for the following: Second Avenue patch 2600 sq. ft. at 2” depth, $1,820; Chestnut Avenue pave 9,960 sq.ft.at 2” depth $6,934: Oak Street pave 15,010 sq. ft. at 2” depth $10,450. Total proposed $19,204. Bob seconds the motion. All in favor.

Randy Fike would like to have the brush cut at the fire hydrant on Oak Street.

Jerry questioned the town placing millings on Alley 14. Karen read the opinion from the courts stating the Quitclaim deed from the Mayor and Town Council of Friendsville to Randy Humberson and Pamela Sue Humberson dated July 21, 2009, and recorded July 29, 2009, in Liber 1453, folio 485, of the Land Records of Garrett County, Maryland, “be and hereby is declared invalid, unenforceable and “Null and Void”. And that: Alley 14 in the town of Friendsville shall have the same status as existed prior to the recording of said Quitclaim deed.” Jerry is questioning Resolution 2008-13 where it states “the Town declares it has no property interest in said alley and therefore leaves it to such private parties as may claim an interest in Alley No. 14 to resolve their interests among themselves.” This was adopted 2008. More research is needed.

Fred question if we can take a blade and make a 2” crevice along the alley in the back of Pat Hamlin’s property to hopefully help the water issues at his apartments. After discussion, it was decided when Paul Harvey, from the Garrett County Roads Department, is in town to have him look at it and get his opinion.

**Christmas:** there was adiscussion on the Christmas Home Tour and Quilt Show.

**Economic Development:** Discussion on theCeltic Festival June 3rd banners and upcoming events in town.

**Safety:** Discussion on parking issues across from the Water Street Café and Morris Avenue. Spencer is concerned with who is responsible for paying for the towing and storage if the owner of the vehicle does not do anything.

**Community Park:** There was a discussion on whether we should use acrylic or polycarbonic for the back boards in the park that are damaged. Fred moved to wait until the next meeting. He will look into seeing if he can come up with a better price. Jerry seconds the motion. Julia, Fred, Pam, Jerry and Bob for the motion. Sheryl abstains. There was also a discussion on getting ventilation in the bottom bathrooms.

**Trees and Shrubs:** The memorial planting for Alice Spear is April 19th at 6:00 p.m. at Town Hall. Sheryl donated a bench. This is not a public event, only for the family, council members and tree committee members.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

* Friendsville Way: After discussion Fred moved to allow the Maker’s Market and the Farmers Market fall under the town’s insurance as a spinoff from the Friendsville Economic Development Comprehensive Plan. Jerry seconds the motion. All in favor.
* MML Summer Conference: Bob moves to send Jerry, Spencer and Sheryl, if her schedule, permits to the summer conference. Fred seconds the motion. All in favor. If reservations are made before the 17th the cost of convention will be $600 per person.
* Jerry’s concerns: Raising the takeout fees from $4 per person to $5 per person. Jerry moved to raise the takeout fees to $5 per person. Fred seconds the motion. Spencer read a letter from Whitewater Classics where they stated they felt our fees were getting excessive with what they were receiving in return. They have to pay $2 to put in at Sang Run and $4 to the town to raft the Upper Yough. They only pay $4.50 in Ohiopyle and they have showers and more to offer. Discussion. Bob for the motion. Pam, Julia, Fred, Jerry and Sheryl against the motion. After more discussion, Fred moves to raise the fee from $4 per person to $4.50 per person. Jerry seconds the motion. Jerry, Bob, Fred for the motion. Julia, Pam and Sheryl against the motion. In the event of a tie Spencer can vote. He voted against the motion and ask a letter be sent to the two companies explaining our concerns.

Double the mayor and council wages: Jerry feels this may get more people to run for office. At the present time, the mayor receives $30 per meeting and council $15 per meeting. After discussion, it was agreed to leave it at the current amounts.

Sweeper for the town tractor: This could cut down on the cost to have the street swept each year and help in the park at times. The cost for the broom is approximately $4,700. This will be discussed during our budget meeting. There was also a discussion on getting proper signage directing visitors to the park.

Opening of park bathrooms: A porta john was placed in the park for one month until the bathrooms are open.

**NEW BUSINESS**

* Letter from Herschel Allen, III: Mr. Allen stated the town needs to move the town hall to the head start building. After checking with John Braskey, Director of Program Open Space, we learned this cannot be done as the property was purchased through POS monies. It would also be considered a conversion. His concerns on street repairs will be directed to the street committee.
* Recreational parking lot: After discussion it was agreed to allow Donnie and Audrey Millard to continue to mow and weed eat in the parking lot. They do this as a donation to the town and accept no money. Porta John in the parking lot. Jess Whittemore and Charlie Walbridge have in the past paid for the porta john in the parking lot. They will not be doing it this year. After discussion Pam moved to move the porta john from the Community Park to the Recreational parking lot the week of April 24th and leave it there until the rafting season is finished at a cost of $90 per month from Tri-State Sanitation. Sheryl seconds the motion. All in favor.
* Budget items: There was a discussion on wages, tax rates and highway user revenue.
* Town-wide clean-up: Julia moved to sponsor a town-wide clean-up the week of May 8-13th with the large item pickup on the 13th. Fred seconds the motion. All in favor.
* Street sweeping: Pam moved to pay the town of Oakland to do our street sweeping again this year. Sheryl seconds the motion. All in favor.
* PLANT Award letter: The town was again recognized as a Tree City USA community and also received the Green Award from PLANT which is the highest award given by the Arbor Day Association.

**MAYOR’S REPORT**

* Salt Box: General consensus to wait on removing the salt box.
* Hoses on snow plow: General consensus to have the hoses repaired once we are done plowing. Don’t wait until winter.
* Restrooms in the park: General consensus to open them the week of April 17th should weather be satisfactory.
* Sewer taps: We received a letter from Public Utilities in September 2015 confirming the town has 25 available sewer taps should we need them. Spencer just wanted to inform the new council of this.
* Meeting with employees: Thursday, April 13th at 3:30 at the maintenance building.
* Jubilee Diner: They would like to have a large chair and tables out front of the diner and make parallel parking. Spencer suggested putting a few planters there to keep cars from trying to park there and to protect the tables. This could help solve the visibility problem at the intersection of Second Avenue and Maple Street. Spencer spoke with Planning and Land Development and they are okay with it. Bob moved to have Rick and Tammy sign a Hold Harmless to protect the town since this could be on the town right-of-way and allow their request. Fred seconds the motion. All in favor.
* 2-hour parking sign: Freda Sines requested we put back up a 2-hr parking sign that was taken down in front of her store. Her patrons do not have room to park at times when there is a release or Ken’s Irish Pub is open. Jerry moved to have Spencer speak with State Highway and have the sign put back up. Bob seconds. All in favor.

**CLERK’S REPORT AND PAYABLES**

Jerry moved to accept the Clerk’s Report. Sheryl seconds the motion. All in favor.

Jerry moved to approve the Payables. Sheryl seconds the motion. All in favor.

**CONCERNS**

Fred is concerned the markers for the Heritage Walking trail are too busy with too much information. They need to be simplified. Sheryl and Julia feel they are educational.

Sheryl is concerned with parking on Walnut Street. Cars are parking out into the street making it hard to get by.

Pam moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen S. Benedict

Clerk/Treasurer